

Help Us Preserve Ballard and Carlisle County History

The Ballard-Carlisle Historical and Genealogical Society, in cooperation with the Records Conversion Department of the Oklahoma Correctional Industries (OCI), is working on a project to digitize school yearbooks.

The “Yearbook Project” was started by OCI after it learned that high schools and local libraries throughout the nation were losing their yearbooks. Some were being destroyed by natural disasters, some were damaged by wear and tear, and others were being destroyed by people cutting out selected images. Once these yearbooks have been destroyed or damaged it is nearly impossible to replace them and much historical information is irretrievably lost. In addition, this project serves an advertising tool to highlight the quality of training and work done by OCI in preparing inmates with the job skills necessary for a productive re-entry into society.

The Records Conversion and Digital Imaging division of OCI has been in business for thirty (30) years. They operate under a strict set of policies and guidelines and all work is strictly supervised for quality as well as security and confidentiality. Their success is noted by the list of agencies who utilize their services- the Oklahoma Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor, The Oklahoma Supreme Court, and the Attorney General's Office. Three years ago they expanded their services to include free yearbook digitalization to libraries, schools, and historical societies.

They use an overhead non-destructive scanning method that ensures all yearbooks are not damaged. Each page is scanned at 300 dpi, saved in a [jpeg] format, and of ***publisher quality*** so that libraries and historical societies, such as ours, can digitally reprint from the DVD if anyone desires a copy/picture.

Benefits:

- Archival purposes
- Reduces storage space and cost
- Protection of valuable and irreplaceable materials
- Ability to provide full or partial reprints from the DVD final product
- DVD provides easy access and viewing of scanned material
- DVD allows viewing without physically handling the original material

One trial shipment of fourteen (14) Carlisle County yearbooks was recently made. The books were returned in their original condition as promised and the DVDs produced by OCI are indeed professional in quality and suitable for viewing and for printing.

We are asking you to help preserve Ballard and Carlisle County history by helping us obtain as many yearbooks as possible.

Yearbooks from the following years are needed to complete the project: **BMHS: 1955, 1957, 1960-64, 1969-1972, 1974, 1981, 1987, 1991, 2001-2002, 2004 to 2016; CARLISLE: 1959-64, 1970, 1974-1987, 1989, 1991, 1993-95, 1997, 2001-2016.** In addition, any yearbooks from the local high schools prior to consolidation are also wanted, for example, Ballard County High (La Center), Bandana, Barlow, Blandville, Kevil, Lovelaceville, Wickliffe, Arlington, Bardwell, Cunningham, and Milburn.

If you have any of the mentioned yearbooks and would like to loan/donate them to this project, contact Sally Boulton (Ballard contact), 270-559-7585, or Murray Akers (Carlisle contact), 270-841-4331, or contact/bring the yearbooks to the Ballard-Carlisle Historical and Genealogical Society, 257 N 4th St, Wickliffe, (across street from Wickliffe Baptist Church), 270-335-5059, any Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

After the yearbooks have been scanned, they will be returned to us along with a set of DVDs containing each yearbook. These DVDs will be stored at the Ballard-Carlisle Historical and Genealogy Society and used for family research purposes. The yearbooks will then be returned to the original owner or stored at the society, depending upon the prearranged agreement.